

Summer tour program kicks off

Malmstrom uses Fridays to show off 341st SW July 20 through Sept. 7

By TSgt Buzz Ritchie
Public affairs office

Malmstrom's kicking off its summer tour program and people on and off base will have a chance every Friday from July 20 to Sept. 7 to see a few of the units that make up Air Force Space Command's premier missile wing.

Visitors can meet their tour guide July 20 and every Friday until Sept. 7 at 9:30 a.m. in the visitor center's parking lot for a drive down Goddard Drive and over to the base's fire department. There, firefighters discuss the work they do at Malmstrom and the equipment they use to protect life and limb.

Next is a stop with the men and women of the 40th Helicopter Flight. Inside the helicopter hangar,

visitors get a close look at the choppers used to support the 341st Space Wing's missile field operations and talk to the people who fly and fix the UH-1N Hueys.

The third stop of the base's summer tour brings visitors from the Big Sky world of aviation to the underground realm of a launch facility missile maintenance trainer. There instructors show Malmstrom's guests what it's like to work inside a Minuteman III launch facility.

Malmstrom's museum and park is the final stop of the summer tour program. Inside the museum, visitors can see the largest military aircraft model in the northwest United States, a World War II barracks room, a Minuteman missile alert facility and a U.S. Army Air Corps and Air Force uniform display. There's much more to see and visitors will have an opportunity to leisurely enjoy the displays inside and outside the museum.

To reserve a place on the Friday summer tours, call 731-4044 or 731-4046. Space is limited, so call ahead.

Water levels

Shortage of rain brings conservation to front

By 2d Lt Shannon Nyberg
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On May 29, the US Department of Agriculture declared the entire state of Montana a drought disaster area due to a lack of moisture indicating how serious the situation is and sending a message to all water users to conserve whenever possible.

A little rain and snow in mid June brought a little relief to the area, but more moisture is needed for any long-term relief from current drought conditions.

The July 1, 2001 Montana Weekly Crop and Weather Report indicated that, "Moisture fell throughout the state, but was spotty for the most part and not very intense. Crop conditions throughout the state have improved little as a result of mid-June rains. Reports of insect damage are tapering off. Strong winds and dry weather seem to have caused the most woes last week, especially in north-central Montana."

Malmstrom is doing their part to conserve. According to Mike Murray, 341st Civil Engineer Squadron, we continue to "spec" low flow devices (i.e. toilets, showerheads) in our new construction and have made water timers available to housing residents for use on the exterior hose bibs for use during irrigation season.

While the weather is beyond personal control, conserving water is something that everyone can do. It's especially important that people do all they can during years when water levels are low as all water must be retrieved from water sources, treated and distributed to everyone.

According to the Montana Drought Advisory Committee, there are many things people can do on an individual level as well as on a neighborhood and community level to help minimize the effects of a drought.

On a household scale:

- Consult the Internet, Cooperative

Extension Service, and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation for sources of information on water conservation in the home.

- Make sure not to have any leaky toilets. They can waste 200 gallons of water a day.
- Be conscientious with lawn watering by irrigating less often, in early morning or late evening, and for slightly longer periods to promote a drought-resistant lawn.
- Monitor monthly water bill to see if conservation measures are working.

On a neighborhood scale:

- Agree on voluntary water use restrictions to protect local ground water supply.
- Inform a neighbor that they have left water running - it may be unintentional.
- Report excessive and chronic waste of water by users if it continues to go unaddressed.

On a community scale:

- Help organize and participate on a voluntary board for water conservation.
- Encourage local government to implement voluntary water use restrictions.
- Educate young people about water conservation in the schools and award achievements.
- Participate on a local drought committee during drought year

"Overall the drought has had very little affect on the base," said Murray. "There appears to be more than adequate water in the Missouri drainage to supply our needs as well as the city's."

Conservation is a continual process for Malmstrom and although there have been few immediate effects on base, conservation is still important in the long run.



Photo by A1C Harold Barnes III



Blackfeet

D. J. "Magic" Aims-back does a traditional Blackfeet Indian dance near the base exchange Tuesday. The Heart Butte singers and Drug Elimination Program Youth celebrate their Indian culture by singing and dancing to help educate Team Malmstrom of Montana's native culture.

Remains of Vietnam War MIAs identified

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The remains of a U.S. Air Force pilot and a Marine Corps aerial observer missing in action from the Vietnam War have been identified and are being returned to their families.

Identified were Air Force Col Harley Pyles of Enon, Ohio, and Marine Col Winfield Sisson of Berkeley, Calif.

On Oct. 18, 1965, their O-1E Bird Dog aircraft encountered low-level cloud cover and rain en route to Da Nang Air Base from Kham Duc, South Vietnam. About 10 minutes out from Da Nang, Col Pyles attempted to make radio contact with the control tower. No further radio transmissions were received, and their aircraft failed to return to any base.

An aerial search was initiated hours later and continued for seven days, but was ended when no evidence of the men or their aircraft was found.

Throughout the late 1980s, several Vietnamese refugees reported having information relating to Col Pyles. None of these reports could be verified; however, in April 1992, a Vietnamese citizen turned over to American officials remains and artifacts that appeared to be those of Sisson. The man indicated the remains had been recovered from a crash site in Thua Thien-Hue Province.

"The support of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam enabled us to account for these servicemen, and we look forward to continued cooperation," said Alan Liotta, acting deputy assistant secretary of defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs. "Achieving the fullest possible

accounting of Americans missing in action is of the highest national priority."

Between 1992 and 1995, a joint U.S./Socialist Republic of Vietnam team, led by the Joint Task Force-Full Accounting, interviewed many Vietnamese nationals believed to have additional remains. The Vietnamese government obtained the remains as well as an identification tag bearing Sisson's name. These remains and material evidence were repatriated to the Central Identification Laboratory Hawaii, where the forensic identification process was conducted.



Courtesy photo

Amn Michael Wilcox, 621st Air Mobility Operations Squadron, A1C Edmond Thibodeau, 305th Maintenance Squadron, and 2d Lt Nicole Fuller, 621st AMOS, search for names of veterans on the Vietnam Moving Wall.

records were among the artifacts recovered.

Analysis of the available evidence suggests that Col Pyles and Sisson died in what is now Thua Thien-Hue Province, Vietnam, when their aircraft crashed on the side of a mountain. There is no evidence that either man survived the crash. Human remains were recovered by local villagers who scavenged the crash site, as well as by CILHI personnel who excavated the site. Some of the remains were confirmed to be those of Col Pyles and Col Sisson on the basis of dental records and DNA analysis.

There are currently more than 1,900 Americans unaccounted-for from the war in Southeast Asia.